

Wadden Sea Board

WSB 8
26-27 June 2013
Copenhagen



Agenda Item:	5
Subject:	Report TG-M
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Submitted by:	CWSS

Attached is the progress report of the Task Group Management (TG-M), also covering progress made by the ad-hoc Working Group Alien Species (WG-AS) and the LIFE+ application on the trilateral management and action plan alien species.

Proposal

The meeting is proposed to note the report

Task Group Management

Progress Report

The eighth meeting of TG-M was held 22 May 2013.

The following main issues were discussed:

- Breeding bird workshop
- Nature restoration projects
- Progress WG-AS
- Progress LIFE+ application
- Feasibility roof report
- Trilateral science-policy matrix.

Below, these issues are presented in more detail.

1. Breeding bird workshop.

TG-M had requested the CWSS to organise an expert workshop on declining breeding bird populations. The workshop was held 18 April 2013 at the secretariat. TG-M 8 discussed the workshop report and expressed its appreciation about the timely organisation and the quality of the workshop. The results show worrying declines of many species. The report contains several recommendations for management actions necessary for improving in particular the breeding success. The recommendations must be further specified in an action plan.

TG-M has submitted relevant input to the text of the MCD to the ad-hoc working group MCD.

2. Nature restoration projects

Upon request of WSB-6, TG-M has started with an inventory of nature restoration projects that can be presented at the Tønder Conference. TG-M intends to elaborate a concept in which several projects can be presented in an integrated way and as much as possible in connection with other nature conservation issues, for example salt marsh restoration in connection with improving conditions for breeding birds.

3. Progress WG-AS

WG-AS has held two meetings so far. It was intended to prepare a common position on the upcoming EU Directive on AIS, but this Directive has not yet been published. WG-AS focuses on the current national experiences with the actions from the Strategy as a framework for providing an overview of measures in place or under development ("no-regret measures". WG-AS has furthermore corrected and updated the draft Alien Species Strategy. The next meeting of WG-AS is scheduled 19 June 2013. It is intended to submit the deliverables of WG-AS, including the final draft of the IAS Strategy, to the WSB-9 meeting.

4. Progress LIFE+ application

The application of the LIFE+ application for the development of a trilateral alien species management and action plan is on schedule. The total budget of the project will be some 5.5 million Euros. The deadline for submission is 25 June.

5. N2000 roof report

In the past months several persons from the national ministries involved in N2000 reporting, have been asked about their opinion with regard to the feasibility and added value of a Wadden Sea roof report.

It has become clear that the production of a roof report faces two difficulties:

- a. Technical problems in getting Wadden Sea specific data, as well as limited possibilities for entering additional information into the fixed submission system.
- b. A lack of overall support for producing a roof report, mainly because the added value is questioned.

There is support for evaluating the way in which at the national level the assessment of habitat types and species is carried out. TG-M therefore proposes to start work on comparing the assessment methodologies, as soon as the national reports have been finalised and submitted to the EU (end of 2013).

6. Trilateral science-policy matrix

At the WSB-7 meeting, the Dutch Waddenacademie has given a presentation about a trilateral research agenda and research platform. Following this presentation WSB has requested the Waddenacademie to present an overview of most pressing policy issues in relation to availability of knowledge on these issues.

The Waddenacademie and the CWSS have elaborated a first draft of a so-called “science-policy matrix”, in which policy relevance and information availability have been integrated.

The matrix will also be used for providing guidance on the setting of priority issues for trilateral policy and management (see also document WSB 8-7.3-1-PAR). For each of the selected priority issues (the aim is to select some 10-15 issues) a brief dossier will be elaborated, consisting of a fact sheet-like text and a map. It is the intention to present the matrix and the dossiers in the form of a brochure-like publication (interim assessment report) at the 2014 Wadden Sea Conference.

The matrix has also been discussed by TMAG and has been circulated to a selected group of experts in the Wadden Sea countries.

TG-M welcomed this “first generation” science-policy matrix as a useful instrument for developing research priorities and selecting priority conservation issues. It was emphasised that the matrix must be further discussed and developed together with policy makers and the scientific community. To this end it is the intention to organise a workshop in the 2nd half of 2013.